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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6860

BILL NUMBER: SB 372

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 21, 2013

BILL AMENDED: Feb 18, 2013

SUBJECT: Youth Athletic Concussions.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Holdman

FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Frizzell

BILL STATUS: As Passed Senate

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) The bill has the following provisions:

Definition: The bill defines "athlete" for purposes of the education law concerning concussions and head injuries as a person less than 20 years of age who engages in an athletic activity. (Currently that law pertains only to student athletes.)

Guidelines: The bill requires the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) to post on the state department's website guidelines created by the Department of Education (DOE) concerning the protection of athletes from the effects of concussions incurred at athletic activities. It requires the DOE, before December 1, 2013, to develop guidelines for the protection of athletes from the effects of concussions incurred at athletic activities taking place on school property.

Training: Beginning April 1, 2014, the bill requires football coaches and assistant football coaches to annually complete a course concerning concussions and provides civil immunity for coaches in certain circumstances.

Study Committee: The bill establishes the Coaching Education Issues study committee during the 2013 legislative interim and sets forth the committee's duties.

The bill also makes conforming changes.

Effective Date: Upon passage; July 1, 2013.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Guidelines:* The requirements of this bill are within both the ISDH's and

DOE's routine administrative functions and should be able to be implemented with no additional appropriations, assuming near customary agency staffing and resource levels. The Indiana High School Athletic Association has published suggested guidelines on its website.

(Revised) *Study Committee*: Interim study committees operate on budgets established by the Legislative Council based on committee size. Legislative Council resolutions in the past have established budgets for interim study committees in the amount of \$9,500 per interim for committees with fewer than 16 members and \$16,500 for committees with 16 members or more.

The bill directs the Legislative Council to establish the Coaching Education Issues study committee to study the feasibility of requiring all athletic activities, in addition to football, to meet the coaching education standards concerning athlete concussions established for football. The committee would also study other topics that are assigned by the Legislative Council. The committee is required to submit a final report (in electronic format) to the Legislative Council and the Governor.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Training*: The cost of the training courses, if any, would probably have to be borne by football coaches. There are on-line courses sponsored by the National Federation of High School Associations and the Centers for Disease Control that are available without cost, and there courses from other organizations that are available for a nominal fee. However, the courses would have to be approved by the DOE.

(Revised) *Additional Information*: Under the bill, except in cases of gross negligence, a coach who completes the required concussion certification training would not be held liable if an athlete under the coach's supervision suffers a concussion.

The bill requires that schools (or any organization sponsoring the football activity) keep course completion certificates on file.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Health; Department of Education; Legislative Council.

Local Agencies Affected: School Corporations

Information Sources: National Federation of High School Associations, www.nfhslearn.com; Center for Disease Control, www.cdc.gov/concussion/headsup/online_training.html; Indiana High School Athletic Association website: <http://www.ihsaa.org/Resources/tabid/1095/Default.aspx>

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